



# Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

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April 21, 2003

Hon. Maura D. Corrigan

Chief Justice

Michigan Supreme Court

P.O. Box 30052

Lansing, MI 48909

RE: ADM File 2002-34/Speeding up the appellate process

Dear Chief Justice Corrigan,

On behalf of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, I am writing to inform you of our opposition to the proposed amendments to MCR 7.212 that would slash the time for filing briefs in the Court of Appeals.

In his well written letter to the Court in opposition to this rule, Tim Baughman correctly states that "*wishing will not make it so*". As county revenue sharing gets cut, Prosecutor's offices are seeing staff reductions of up to 25%. The Prosecuting Attorneys Appellate Service, which performs the appeals for 57 prosecutor's offices have seen a reduction of 40% in its legal staff. If the Court of Appeals cannot address its warehouse problem without additional staff, it is incredulous to believe that prosecutors can meet these expedited time lines with reduced staff. The proposal will merely compound the current problems affecting quality advocacy as outlined by Mr. Baughman.

In regard to the alternative proposal suggested by Mr. Baughman, we concur in his recommendation to reduce the time for filing a claim or requesting counsel, and for the examination of the time necessary to prepare transcripts. But in the current financial climate, the time for filing briefs should not be reduced. The staffing reductions currently occurring in prosecutor's offices means that any attempt to shorten the time for filing briefs will only insure their late filing, and the resulting damage to the quality of appellate advocacy that entails.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Morse  
President

cc: Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court  
Corbin Davis  
PAAM officers  
Tim Baughman  
Peter George  
Bill Bond

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APR 23 2003

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE